

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair  
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Vice Chair

Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk  
Mr. Michael Buddemeyer  
Mrs. Angela Volpicelli

Mrs. Marilyn King  
Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Christine Tague, Patti Cofield

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 5:27 PM and resumed at 6:26 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Carpender announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting under R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) and (a)(2). No votes were taken and no motions were made. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 7-0.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** No report.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - a) **Appt. – Music Teacher, .4 time, Melville.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-9/3/09, to the position of Music Teacher, .4 time, at Melville School, for the 2009-10 school year."
  - b) **Appt. – Tech Arts Teacher, .4 time, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-9/3/09, to the position of Tech Arts Teacher, .4 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2009-10 school year."
  - c) **Appt. – Computer Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-9/3/09, to the position of Computer Teacher, full-time, at Portsmouth High School, effective September 1, 2009."
  - d) **General School Aide – Hathaway School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-9/3/09, to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway School, effective September 1, 2009."

- e) **Part-Time Clerk – Melville School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #5-9/3/09, to the position of Part-Time Clerk at Melville School, effective September 1, 2009."
- f) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the requests to provide home schooling for the 2009-10 school year for students HS#13 through 18-9/09, as listed in the confidential memo dated September 1, 2009, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."
- g) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Alexander Tainsh, .4 Tech Arts Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective immediately. (Backup to Follow)"
- h) **Clerk Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Jacqueline Shearman, Clerk, Category A, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective immediately."

Ms. Jacqueline Shearman requested that Item h) be removed from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Shearman was informed that she could withdraw her retirement request if she wished to discuss it at a future meeting. After further discussion, she elected not to withdraw her retirement. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 5-2. Ms. Volpicelli and Mrs. King were opposed.

Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

- a) Caleb Seibert – Music Teacher, .4 time, Melville.
- b) Sharon Chung – Tech Arts Teacher, .4 time, PMS.
- c) Emeusiri Oduaren – Computer Teacher, PHS.
- d) Susan Lewis – General School Aide – Hathaway School.
- e) Kimberly Colicci – Part-Time Clerk – Melville School.

#### 4. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Ratification of NEA Contract.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to ratify the NEA Contract. Mr. Carpenter stated that during the last several months of negotiations, the negotiating team went through the entire contract and made numerous language changes. The proposed contract is for one year. The union has agreed to no COLA for steps 1-9, but they will get their step increase. The 10<sup>th</sup> step teachers will receive a \$500 increase in base salary that equates to a 7/10<sup>ths</sup> of 1 percent increase. The union members will now be paying 13 percent co-pay, up from 10 percent. The daily rate of long-term substitutes has been reduced to provide a savings to School

Department. Ms. Wedge stated that the goal was to get a zero cost increase to the School Department but ended up with a cost of \$65,721, which is extremely low. She felt that the negotiations were very cordial. Mrs. Perrotti inquired about block scheduling, stating that the Berkshire Report indicated that an 83-minute planning period was very high in comparison. Dr. Lusi explained that since the Berkshire Report was done, rather than trying to reduce planning minutes, we started using some of them to follow state mandates for common planning time for instructional focus groups. Mrs. Perrotti inquired about the length of school day for teachers. Dr. Lusi stated that the secondary teachers are teaching and supervising for 6 ½ hours, and this change took place a couple of years ago. We have different language at the elementary and middle school level; and as part of last years' 1-year contract extension, the elementary and middle school teachers received 1 extra personal day. Mr. Larry Fitzmorris asked if this agreement meets the requirements to balance this budget, and Mr. Carpender explained that we were trying to get concessions to close the gap as much as possible. The actual gap is \$171,468; and we will continue to look at the overall budget as to where we can make up that money. Mr. Fitzmorris asked if this contract exceeds the cap, and Mr. Carpender said it does not. Mr. Fitzmorris asked if there are any other changes in the contract relative to administrative prerogative. Dr. Lusi provided a number of examples. Mrs. Levesque thanked the union for their cooperation, professional attitude, and willingness to work hard and come up with an agreement that benefits the students. Dr. Lusi agreed. Mr. Carpender thanked the union and stated that this is the second year in a row that the union has agreed to accept no COLA in Steps 1-9. That is a significant amount. The amount of money saved by the union if they had a 1 percent COLA last year and this year would've been \$262,000 more in our budget. Had it been 1 1/2 percent, it would've been \$400,000. The union worked with us to get things done. Dr. Lusi thanked Cindy Perry, Michelle Beaulieu, Amanda Boswell, Beth Travers, Mary Stockard, Tom Holstein, Christine Homen, Dick Carpender, Sylvia Wedge, Marge Levesque, and Rick Updegrave. The motion to ratify the NEA Contract passed 4-2-1. Mrs. King and Mrs. Perrotti were opposed. Ms. Volpicelli abstained.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Marge Levesque, Clerk